

**Socio-Economic Profile of Handloom Weaving Community:
A Case Study of Bargarh District, Odisha**

*A Dissertation Submitted to the
Department of Humanities and Social Sciences,
National Institute of Technology, Rourkela
In partial fulfilment of the requirement of the award of the
Degree of Master of Arts in Development Studies*

Submitted by

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DECLARATION

I, hereby declare that my final year project on “*Socio-Economic profile of Handloom weaving community: A case study of Bargarh District, Odisha*” at National Institute of Technology Rourkela, Odisha in the academic year 2014-15 is submitted under the supervision of Dr. Bikash Ranjan Mishra. The information submitted here is true and original to the best of my knowledge.

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CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the dissertation entitled, “**Socio- Economic Profile of Handloom weaving community: A Case study of the Bargarh District, Odisha**” submitted by Sandhya Rani Das in partial fulfilment of requirement for the degree of Masters of Arts in Development Studies of the department of Humanities and Social Sciences, National Institute of Technology, Rourkela, Odisha, is carried out by her under my supervision. To the best of my knowledge the subject embodied in the dissertation has not been submitted to any other University for the award of any degree.

Dr. Bikash Ranjan Mishra

Project Supervisor

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It is a great opportunity for me to study on the topic named Socio-Economic Profile of Handloom Weaving Community: A Case Study of Bargarh District, Odisha. At the time study I have gone through different websites which help me to get acquainted with the topic.

I acknowledge with gratitude to Dr. Bikash Ranjan Mishra, Assistant Professor Humanities and Social Science, National Institute of Technology, Rourkela, Odisha my respective supervisor, who has always been helpful in making me understand the different conceptual problems and system of research in my study. I am confident it would not have been possible without his kind support and guidance he showed me throughout my dissertation writing.

I would also like to show appreciation to all faculty members and the batch mates of my department for their support.

I have tried hard to gather all relevant information's regarding this subject. I don't know how far I am able to do that. Furthermore I don't claim all the information included in my dissertation is perfect.

There may be shortcomings, factual error, mistaken opinion which are all mine and I alone am responsible for those but I will try to give a better volume in future.

Above all I convey my gratitude to the invincible god and my dear parents for their blessings and support which motivate me to carry out this work.

Sandhya Rani Das

ABSTRACT

Traditional Indian handloom enjoys a global reputation as well as huge demands in the local markets. However, the weavers face a number of challenges which affect their livelihood and overall wellbeing. The study aims to analyse the socio economic condition of the weavers and offer possible recommendations to mitigate their plight. This study is based on primary data collected through interview schedules from 100 weavers residing in Bargarh district of Odisha. The result of the study revealed that the weavers are facing a number of challenges like financial constraint, inability to purchase up-to-date machineries, poor working condition, meagre remuneration and the absence of government support.

Key words: *Handloom, Weavers, Bargarh district, Socio-economic conditions.*

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Chapter – I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Motivation behind the study

Traditional hand weaving has been a part of India's cultural heritage. This sector occupies a position next to agriculture as it provides livelihood opportunities to millions of people. The handloom industry is expanding both nationally and internationally because of the demand for hand crafted artefacts and unique traditional design, but the socioeconomic condition of the weaving community is continuously deteriorating. The problems faced by the weavers are competing in the global markets, low level of income, poor market price of the finished commodity and inability to reach the buyers. The traditional handloom industry is taking a toll on the weavers of Odisha and it has not been studied much by the researchers. This study, based in Bargarh district of Odisha aims to understand the socioeconomic condition of the weaver residing in this area and offers necessary suggestion. This study is motivated by the findings of the other studies that show a gradual shift of the profession from weaving to government services because of the uncertainty that lies in this sector as well as lack of attention of the government towards the up falling condition of traditional weavers.

1.2 History and Origin of the Handloom Industry

Weaving practiced in India has been in existence for more than 5000 years. It is also found in Ramayana and Mahabharata that speak about length of craft. India has a rich cultural heritage of Handloom Industry having the largest Handloom Industry in the world. Thus it also makes major contribution to the economy. Handloom products from India has a good demand in the global market and enjoyed internationally. Historically, a few famous hand woven textiles of India were Baluchar Sari of Varanasi, Bandamis of Kutch, Chandri saris of Madhya Pradesh, Georgettes of Mysore, (Karnataka), Sambalpuri Saris of Odisha, Jamdhani Saris of Bengal, Temple silk of south from Kancheepuram and others.

Odisha is a beautiful state enriched with traditional garments that we drape over the body in various styles. The unique traditional products reflect the essence of traditional way of life. Odisha's handloom include towels, dhotis, Saris, dress materials and many others. Sambalpuri Saris as a presentation of Odisha Culture are symbol of tradition and culture. They have also been an important part of the ethnic Indian female attire in the western

society. Sambalpuri Saris are known for their incorporation of traditional motifs like shankha (shell) Chakra (wheel), flowers all of has deep symbolism towards the tradition. These designs are desired from our culture, tradition and mythology like Ramayana, Mahabharata, Jagannath culture and folk tales of Odisha.

In 1980's the Sambalpuri Saris became an International brand. Former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi become a sort of Brand ambassador of Sambalpuri Saris, is her favourite attire. Many of the weavers have been awarded prizes honoured, both at National as well as International level. Bargarh was conferred with Padmashree award for his conquer and monumental contribution. Huge demand for Sambalpuri Saris all over India and overseas. Sambalpuri Bastralaya of Bargarh alone used to do business worth Rs. 15 cores.

Western Odisha Contributes for the growing handloom Industry. Bargarh handloom cluster is spread over the entire Blocks of Bargarh, Attabira, Sohela, Bijepur. According to the survey taken by the Zonal Handloom Officer during the year of 2004 the cluster had 7158 number of looms out of which 5102 looms are working in 299 different villages. The Annual Production is around 10 cores Rupees.

During the year 1942, the cluster started taking momentum with the involvement of Late Padmashree Dr. Krutartha Acharya and his four associate, they started their business with production on limited numbers of looms. Later during the year 1954, he converted his business into a "Co-operatives". Later under the Societies Act it was named Sambalpuri Bastralaya and established in Bargarh town. This was the first firm which took the leadership in weaving and stood as a mile stone in its History. The traditional weaver's community are popularly known as "Bhulia" cause into existence during mid of 17 centaury due to increase in population they spread to other nearby places. Originally they belong to Rajasthan came into existence during the 14th century to the Ruler of erstwhile Patana State, a king of Chouhan dynasty "Ramai Deb". Later they were presented to the king of Sonapur during 16th Century and scattered to the nearly districts, i.e. Bargarh in the next century.

The cluster actors are small weavers, Master weavers and Co-operative societies. Majority of people are working under the Master weavers they provide weavers the Raw Materials. Most of the Co-operative societies are running in loss because of which they are unable to take proper care of its members.

1.3 Statement of the problem:

As the available literature reflects, there is no much studies conducted on socio-economic status of Bargarh district. In spite of various schemes implemented for the development of social and economic conditions of weaving communities yet there is no much improvement seen. They faced more vulnerability especially due to weak organisational structure, administrative failures, financial disincentive, poor infrastructure, decentralized looms, poor marketing etc. Thus the present study aims at exploring the socio-economic profiles of the weaving community to examine their status in Bargarh district of western Odisha.

1.4 Objectives of the Study:

1. To study the social conditions prevailing among the handloom weavers with an objective to find out there place in the society.
2. To analyse the economic conditions of the handloom weavers and find out there economic status and living condition.

1.5 Data and Methodology:

To fulfil the objectives of the study primary data has been collected from the respondent weavers. Both qualitative and quantitative technique of research has been used in the study. Interviews have been qualitatively analysed and interpreted. The Study was conducted in Rengali, Kegan village of Sohela Block in Bargarh District of Odisha. As in Bargarh District majority of the people are weavers they are spread over the entire blocks of Bargarh, Attabira, Sohela and Bijepur as per the survey taken by the Zonal Handloom Officer during the year 2004. Purposive sampling method was used. Primary Data was collected from 100 respondents' household interview schedule. Interview schedule contained both open ended as well as close ended questions. The first part of Schedule dealt with General information of the respondent about the demographic profile and other necessary information's, the second part dealt with the social conditions of the weavers and third regarding the economic conditions of weaver family.

1.6 Organisation of Chapters:

The study is divided into six chapters including the present one. Chapter-II reviews the available literature. Chapter-III deals with the Data and methodology collected from the survey. Chapter-IV discusses on the social conditions of the selected handloom weavers. Chapter-V covers the economic conditions of weavers. Chapter-VI summarises the entire study with conclusion and some policy recommendations to improve upon the standard of living of Handloom weavers.

Chapter - II

LITERATURE REVIEW

The present chapter reviews the available literatures, especially those which have some direct and/or indirect relevance with respect to the handloom industry. The general characteristics of the industry, such as: output and employment aspects of the industry, income of weaving of the household and their economic conditions have been analysed. The study brought out the impact of handloom on social life of weaving community, listed out the causes of crisis. The authors found the weavers position in the society and gave some necessary suggestions.

Desai (1978) in his study discussed about the development of cottage and small scale industry which provides rural employment to the weavers in rural India with assurance of complete employment to the weavers and by reviving the old culture they should be given proper dignity and position in the society.

Cheppan (1984) in his study highlighted the importance of clothing among the three basic necessities of human life. He focused on history of handloom industry its socio economic importance and the problems faced. His work also revealed on the structure, organisation and wages condition and suggestions to improve the Handloom industry.

Das and Mahapatro (1986) in their study focused on the problems faced and the difficulties by the states of Odisha and Assam. They analysed the common problems of the state of art and about the conversion of handloom into power loom. They discussed about the changes in productivity of the sector as it faced severe competition from the cheap mills. The artistry fabrics were at a serious threat as observed by them. They recommended for the timely introduction of new techniques of production in order to save the industry.

Munirhota (1986) observed handloom industry in Kanyakumari district. His study showed the need of handloom in terms of employment opportunity. The employment opportunity provided through the handloom industry, both in rural and urban areas, was massive.

Jayakar (1988) discussed about making handloom industry more competitive by improved marketing channels. It could be feasible by providing them 100 per cent loan under centrally sponsored schemes for weavers.

Maurya (1988) in his study on handloom industry revealed that handloom served as the basic need have people its unique individuality and production in good quality maintains their own identity. Growth of mill sector is sophisticated and method of production is diversified need of people. Though handloom industry is running in competition it is still able to maintain its own identity due to organisations.

Baishya (1989) in his study he focussed on the income generated activities by industries flows, forward and backward linkages through channels he says handloom industry depends on number of looms, type, quality of fabrics produced, types of designs and duration of work.

Dantwala (1990) the study shows the organisations of industrial weaver's co-operation society. Government implemented a scheme for the welfare of the society of the loom less weaver's large number of weavers without the loom are struggling hard under the control of master weavers on which they depend as their source of livelihood.

Singh (1991) studies on the handloom industry which ranks next to the agriculture industry by providing direct or indirect employment to large rural population by labour intensive techniques and more employment opportunities in most of village industries.

Prasad (1993) in his study he pointed out the problems in cotton handloom industry. "The exposition of many exactions by the East India Company on the indigenous weavers hindered the smooth working of industry". He focussed on the deteriorated conditions of weavers especially their economic conditions. Weavers join the traditional work culture, occupation to agriculture also declined which leads to unemployment and other crisis.

Subathra (1994) in his study pointed out the developmental model based on protection of domestic industry small scale labours and other decentralized sectors against large scale capital intensive techniques.

Shah (1995) the handloom weavers are mostly weaker and marginal section brought into co-operative folds. As handloom is an achievement for the development of country besides it ensures an adequate and timely support of yarn and other raw materials which helped in marketing of finished textiles.

Subburaj (1995) focuses on the small scale and cottage industry and crafts in India as the handloom industry plays an important role and is occupying a pride place. In his study he

points that handloom industry is the largest industry with more than 30.22 Lakh looms spread throughout the country.

Gurumoorthy (1995) he studied about the market development assistance to handloom co-operative societies, handloom fabrics are essential for the markets as well as for the overall administration of the handloom co-operatives societies. The central government provides financial assistance to the handloom co-operatives for improving the marketing capabilities under market development assistance schemes.

Doraiswamy (1996) in his study it is said that the handloom industry occupies the highest demand with better growth continuing process also it is difficult to find out the skilled labours to work on this sector the continuing demand cannot be matched by power looms in designs and texture.

Abdul (1996) in his study in Handloom industry he points out on the vulnerable and severely affected segments in the large scale de-employment of weaver community and shrinkage of the labour wages.

Doraiswamy (1996) in his study he identified about the technological change innovations of power looms in weaving industry has made several changes which flourished in Dodaballapur, Anekal and Bangalore.

Ali (1996) focuses on handloom industry as the traditional industry which provides employment not only to one generation but also to several generation it have a vital significance role in India which provides high employment and low capital output.

Suresh and Ganesh (1998) in his study in “The economic impact of handloom co-operatives on weavers “he stated the importance of handloom industry which provides direct employment to two Lakh people.

Rani and Kumari (1998) pointed the significance of handloom industry the total production and employment in textile industry also the growing problems of employment and under employment in our country.

Rao and Sekhar (1998) in their study they focussed on the issues related to weakness of handloom industry like the weak organisations, co-operatives, in adequate credits or finance no proper marketing infrastructure the situation had made it vulnerable.

Premavathy (1999), in her study he examined the problems of Handloom industry its importance and feasibility and how to solve those problems lack of training and finance are the major problems .She pointed out modernisation through development especially in rural and urban areas also reduce unemployment in Ernakulum District.

Narayan (2000) in his study says about the beauty of handloom industry as it is the part of India's rich and heritage the richness and artistry of weavers. The Handloom Act 1985 aims to protect the interest of weavers. For the better formulation and effective schemes and policy of the benefits of handloom weavers NCAER assigned a task of undertaking the census the census of handloom in 1995-96 by ministry of textiles.

Kutty (2000) in his study he reveals about the no proper markets for woven products made by weavers they walked doorsteps for earning their livelihood without taking food they sell their products at a very low price since weavers are destined to born, live, die due to poverty they face through a very exploited situation.

Ganesh(2000) in his study about the handloom industry it focussed on the need and support of the handloom traditional industry .Earlier there was traditional use of dyes and colours by using vegetables and were eco-friendly but today dyeing process is done by chemicals which leads to poor health.

Babu (2001) in his study he identified some of the major development in handloom sector .This sector is highly supportive to the state for the growth prospectus also they are highly supportive for the state policy context to restrictions on mill sector , reservation in part to produce handloom measures of cloth and reorganisation of production and co-operative structure.

Nimbalkar (2002) in his study he highlights that the handloom sector play a major role in the society provides direct and indirect employment to 6.5 million people engaged in such activities. This sector withstands competition as a result of government intervention through financial assistance various welfare schemes for country's sustainability.

Mathiraj and Rajkumar (2008) he made a study on handloom production and marketing, the study related production related problems in handloom industry the marketing process carried out by the weavers' society in Tirunelveli District facing wide fluctuations in yarn prices. The study suggested the production pattern, sales design and to accelerate it in the market with moderate cost to solve the problems of handloom weavers.

Shijina and Shiji (2009) he said weaving process as the central to quality of the rug as handloom rugs were the older traditions practised by village artisans indeed handloom rugs are threat.

Prachi (2010) she observed on the Indian traditions as handloom is growing popularly not only in India but also around the globe people admiring Indian handloom and Indian handicraft, distinct styles and ways of weaving exchange of styles also happens among the weavers in the handloom industry.

IANS (2011) he studied that the Indian consumers need to change their thinking they need to think “swadeshi” rather than “videshi” .Weavers face avoidance by people as well as the designers though the fashion industry is very powerful platform to convey the message show the talent across the masses.

TNN (2011) he focused on the several decisions taken by government for encouragement of weavers in the handloom industry in the state. The state government has formulated several schemes for the development of socio-economic conditions of weavers of handloom industry.

The study on handloom weavers aimed to assessing the socio-economic conditions of handloom weaving in order to identify the reason of decline and evaluate the different components of handloom sector. The major findings are weavers must get benefit from the government so that they would enjoy a better standard of living development in their socio economic status in the society. The weavers are facing problems in marketing, finance, supply of yarn are highlighted also various policies adopted by the government for the development of handloom industry.

Chapter – III

DATA AND METHODOLOGY

The present study is carried out in two different areas of Sohela block in Bargarh district, Odisha, such as: Rengali and Kengaon village. The socio-economic background of the weaving community are studied. For the purpose of identifying the sample weavers an attempt has been made to collect data pertaining to the occupational distribution of household at national level from census of India, 2001 Reports. The study is focussed on collection of both primary as well as secondary data. The secondary data is used to draw a general background over all scenarios. Primary data was collected by visiting every household, the main variable of interest related to household includes; General information about the village, social conditions, social grouping, level of education, type of family, dependency ratio, occupation, living condition, the various income and expenditure from various source , land sized owned, deposits and lending rates, income, saving deposits and credits, loans. The economic conditions includes occupational distribution, number of looms owned, types of cloth produced, number of cloths, debts raised, details of assets owned ,etc.

A mix of judgemental sampling and random sampling was used to collect the primary data in the district basis of the availability of information among the weavers. Sampling from two areas having 100 households were included in the study where majority of the weavers were coming under the age group of 30-35 as age is one of important social factor for the demographic profile in the study. Weaving is a kind of profession can be done by both the genders in the study area about 88 percent of weavers were married and 12 percent weavers were unmarried. Other important factors like the social grouping as the area was fully dominated by scheduled caste weaver, literacy rate of them was very low 18 percent of weavers never attended to school 46 percent had education below primary level, 28 percent attended middle school, 28percent attended secondary school and only 8percent attended higher secondary school.92 percent of weavers reside in nuclear family only 8percent in joint family which determines the expenditure pattern of the family depending on the number of dependents. Other major factors are financial status of the weavers income and expenditure pattern of the family in respect to the number of working days as 54 percent of weavers were working for 26-30days.Indebtness is a serious issue in the handloom industry 42 percent of weavers have borrowed funds from the master weavers, 26percent from banks, 20percent from the co-operative society and 12 percent from their friends and relatives purpose behind

taking loan are marriage, ritual ceremonies, repayment of old loan, acquiring of assets etc. Monthly income and expenditure of the family is very important to find out the economic status of the weaver family as the average on food, cloth, education, medicine, telephone and other miscellaneous activities are 43.9%, 21.98%,10.99%,1.09%,10.99% respectively. The assets owned like the land, number of looms, type of house depends upon the economic status of the weavers.

The analysis of data collected in the field has been done by using Microsoft excel. Pictorial representation of collection of the data collected using bar diagram and pie chart has been done wherever necessary.

Chapter – IV

SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF HANDLOOM WEAVERS

In this chapter, a very detailed analysis is given on the Social Conditions of Handloom weavers in Bargarh District, the study critically discussed to bring out the real living conditions of handloom weavers in the study area. The present analysis made on selected important variables such as personal identification, age group, education qualification, social status, marital status, religion, size of the family, income and expenditure pattern, saving pattern, debt analysis etc. Now they may be analysed one by one in a detailed manner as follows:

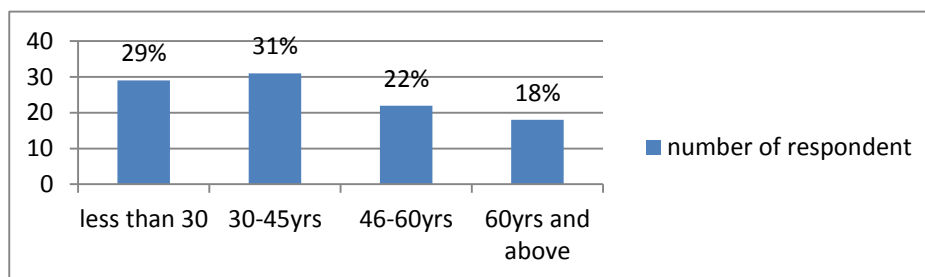
4.1 Age:

TABLE 4.1
AGE WISE CLASSIFICATION OF RESPONDENTS

Sl.No	Age Groups	Number of Respondents	Percentage
1	Less than 30 yrs	29	29
2	30-45 yrs	31	31
3	46-60 yrs	22	22
4	60 yrs and above	18	18
	Total	100	100

Source: Primary Survey

In the above table it is clear that 29% of weavers are in the age group of below 30 years, 31% belongs to age group of 30-45 years, 22% belongs to the age group coming between 46 and 60, 18% of weavers are above 60 years of age. This indicates that majority of person engaged in the handloom industry are the middle aged groups coming under age of 30-45 years.

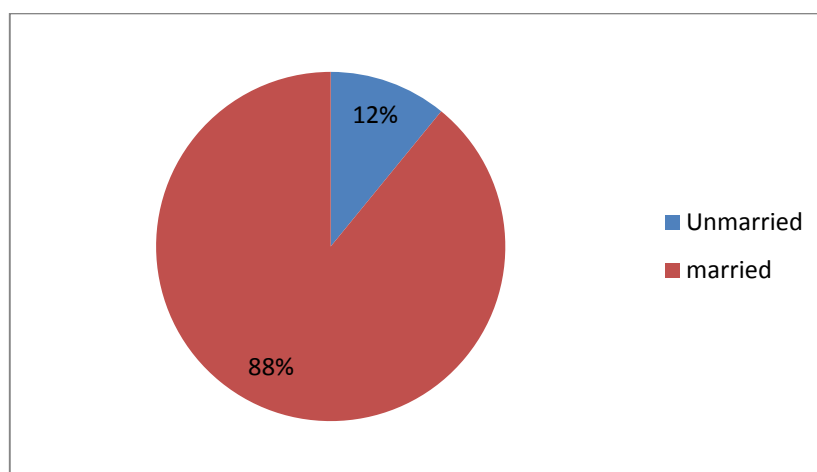


4.2 Marital status:

Sl.No	Marital status	Number of respondent	Percentage
1	Unmarried	12	12
2	Married	88	88

Source: Primary Survey

The above table shows the percentage of married and unmarried respondents. This is one of the important factors which affect the social status of the people the difference in needs etc. The study reflects that majority of the respondents were married that is 88% and only 12% respondents were unmarried.



4.3 Social status:

Sl. No	Social Status	Number of respondent	Percentage
1	SC	100	100
2	ST	0	0
3	OBC	0	0
4	GEN	0	0
5	Minority	0	0
	Total	100	100

Source: Primary Survey

In the above table it is shown that the community was dominated by Scheduled Caste weavers 100% of the respondents belonged to the Scheduled Caste (SC) Category in the study area of Bargarh district.

4.4 Religion:

RELIGION WISE CLASSIFICATION

Sl.No	Religion	Number of respondents	Percentage
1	Hindu	100	100
2	Christian	0	0
3	Muslim	0	0
	Total	100	100

Source: Primary Survey

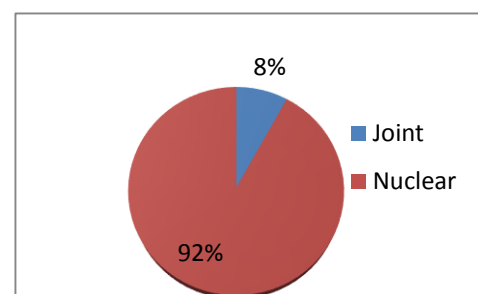
The above table shows the Religion of the community people. As religion also plays an important role in deciding the social status of the people. The study area was mainly the followers of Hinduism as 100% of people were Hindu none of them belonged to Christianity or Muslim.

4.5 Type of family:

Sl.No	Family status	Number of respondents	Percentage
1	Joint	8	8
2	Nuclear	92	92
	Total	100	100

Source: Primary Survey

The above Table shows that 92% of the respondents live with nuclear family and remaining 8% of the respondents live in joint family.

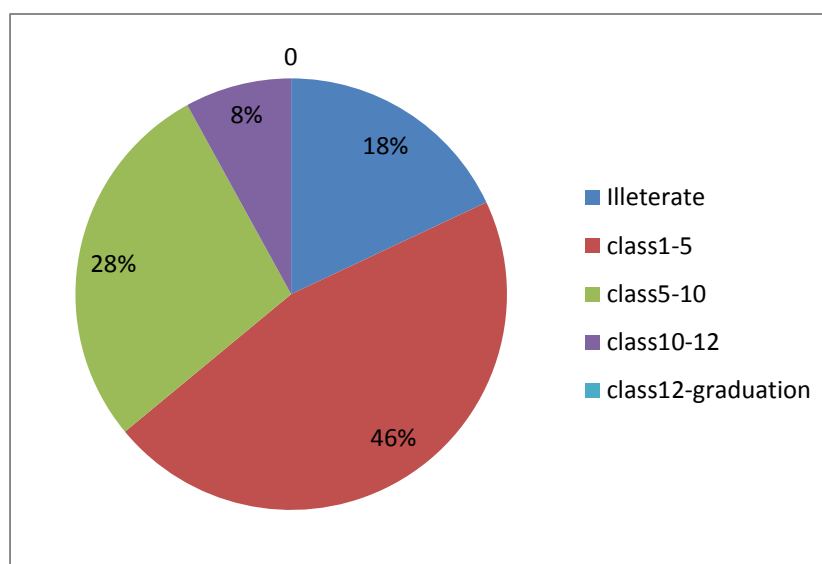


4.6 Educational qualification:

Sl.No	Qualification	Number of respondents	Percentage
1	Illiterate	18	18
2	Class1-5	46	46
3	Class5-10	28	28
4	Class10-12	8	8
5	Class12-graduation	0	0
	Total	100	100

Source: Primary survey

The level of education of the head of the house hold or individual member of the family also determines the social status of the family .As level of employment is the deciding factor of the employee in which he is engaged in as low education has low employment opportunity and high education has high employment and higher income occupations. Here the respondent groups consists of 18% illiterate, 46% of respondents studied 1-5th standard level, 28% of respondents studied 5th to 10th standard level, 8% of weavers studied 10th to 12th standard level and no one studied above 12th standard. This shows that majority of respondents Educational level were 1-5th standard. The graph is shown below.



4.7 Occupation:

Sl.No	Occupation structure	Number of respondent	Percentage
1	Primary Occupation	100	100
2	Secondary Occupation	0	0

Source: Primary Survey

The occupational factors determine the socio and economic aspects of human being. Ones occupational factor determines ones level of education, possession of assets etc. On the

survey conducted among the weavers 100% of the respondents are involved in weaving as their primary occupation.

4.8 Nature of house Accommodation:

Sl.No	Nature of house	Number of respondents	percentage
1	Thatched	100	100
2	Tiled	0	0
3	Pucca	0	0
4	RCC	0	0
	Total	100	100

Source: Primary Survey

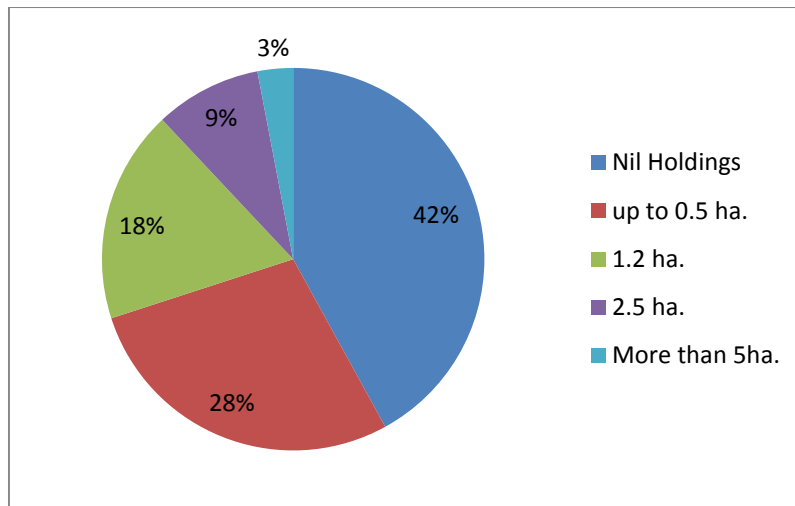
The above table shows the nature of house the respondents are living the entire village a living in a thatched house the living condition is very poor majority having only one or two rooms constructed by their own funds. Thus 100% respondents lived in thatched houses in the study village

4.9 Land Holdings:

Sl.No	Land Holdings	Number of respondents	Percentage
1	Nil Holding	42	42
2	Up to 0.5 ha. Unirrigated/irrigated	28	28
3	1.2 ha. Unirrigated/irrigated	18	18
4	2.5 ha. Unirrigated/irrigated	9	9
6	More than 5 ha. Unirrigated/irrigated	3	3
	Total	100	100

Source: Primary Survey

The land holding signifies the economic standard of the respondent family. Land is considered to be the biggest assets for the rural livelihood it can be accumulated in terms of money or any kind of productive assets while some financial emergency. In the table shown majority of the respondents don't acquire any land 42% are nil holding, 28% are acquiring up to 0.5 ha. 18% having 1.2 ha. Land, 9% holding 2.5 ha. Land and only 3% respondents having more than 5 ha. of irrigated or unirrigated land bearing. Graphical representation of land holding is shown below.



Conclusion:

The following conclusions are drawn from the present study:

1. Age is the important social factor on the demographic profile on study based. The ageing population increases dependency ratio. Among the sample weavers, 29 percent weavers working are less than 30 years of age, 31 percent of weavers are coming under the age group of 30-45, 22 percent of weavers are coming under age group of 46-60 years and about 18% weavers were above 60 years of age.
2. Gender also plays an important role. Weaving is a kind of profession that can be done by both the genders. With respect to that of marital status, the needs and requirements of the unmarried have less needs compared to the married weavers. According to the study 88 percent weavers are married and 12 percent are unmarried weavers.
3. Social grouping also plays a major role. In the study area of Bargarh district the community was fully dominated by the scheduled caste weavers and Hindu religion.
4. Literacy is also one of the important social aspect for the development of individuals. It was surveyed that 18percent of weavers never attended the school. 46 percent have education below primary school, 28 percent attended middle school, 28 percent attended secondary school and remaining 8 percent weavers attended higher secondary school.
5. Type of family and size of family are also the important issues to find out the social conditions of family. Nuclear family was found to be the highest at about 92 percent.

6. Study have also been made based on the number of dependents, nature of number of rooms, looms etc. Every respondent family had more than three dependents in their family. They owned thatched house by their own funds and none of them have more than two to three rooms. Every respondent have only one loom in their family.

7. None of the respondent families had sanitation facility nor even electricity connection. They are able to take twice meal a day provided by *a kilogram rice per rupee* under Government scheme.

8. The present study also reflects that the majority of respondents prefer Government service as an occupation for their children for better livelihood of their family.

Chapter - V

ECONOMIC CONDITIONS OF HANDLOOM WEAVERS

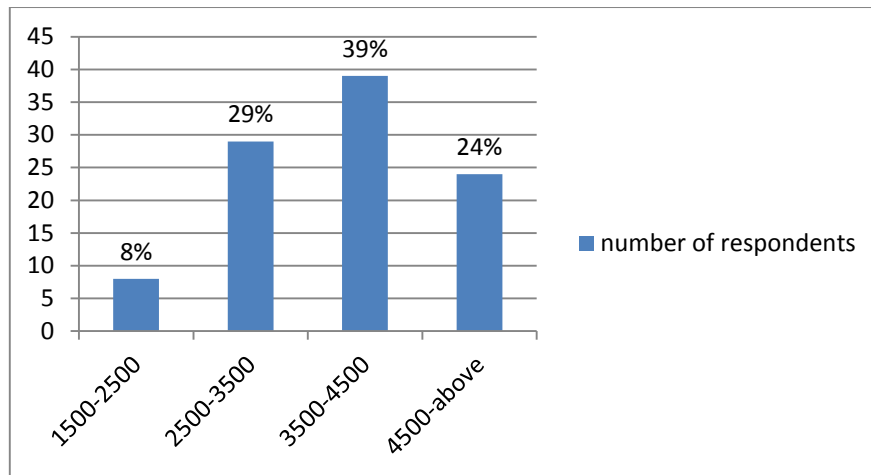
The present chapter is to examine the economic conditions of the handloom weavers in Bargarh district of western Odisha. As weaving is the primary occupation, each family owned one traditional loom which their ancestors used, namely, *throw shuttle pit loom* locally named as “Manga”. The present study focuses on the areas of occupational distribution of the family members, type of looms, and number of working days for a month, debt raised, whether they are working as an independent weaver, working under the control of master weavers or working under the control of co-operative society as a member.

5.1 Earning Income per month:

Sl.No	Earning/Income per month	Number of respondent	Percentage
1	1500-2500	8	8
2	2500-3500	29	29
3	3500-4500	39	39
4	4500- above	24	24
	Total	100	100

Source: Primary Survey

Income is the base of every individual. More is the income more is the standard of living. The purchasing power of a family depends on the stability of income. The above table shows the monthly income wise classification of the respondents 8% of respondents earning between Rs. 1500-2500, 29% of respondents were between Rs 2500-3500, 39% of respondents earning between Rs.3500-4500 and 24% respondents are earning Rs.4500 and above. It can be found that majority of respondents are earning between 3500-4500.

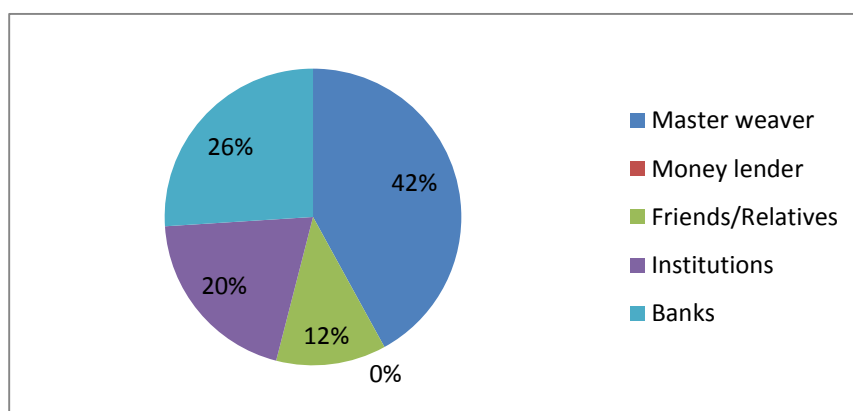


5.2 Debt Raised:

Sl.No	Debt raised through	Number of respondent	Percentage
1	Master Weavers	42	42
2	Money Lenders	0	0
3	Friends/Relatives	12	12
4	Institution(co-operative society)	20	20
5	Banks	26	26
	Total	100	100

Source: Primary Survey

The main source of debt is master weavers 42% of respondents borrowed from the master weavers, Friends/Relatives 12%, Institution (co-operative society) 20%, Banks 26%, and none of the respondents borrowed from the Money lenders. Thus very high dependence on master weavers and no role played by the money lenders.



5.4 Pattern of monthly family expenditure:

Food:

Food is the basic need for all human being. It differs from person to person as per their need and requirements, need, health and physical condition. These are obvious fundamental needs for the body to work properly and keep every individual in a good condition.

Clothing:

It is also considered as one of the basic need of every individual. It depends upon the income level of the individual as per the income level increases the purchasing power of the people increases.

Education:

Education is needed to improve and development of sustainable life. Getting proper education strengthens the root and benefits them acquiring the basic knowledge helps to live healthy and balanced life The government is also implementing various policies for education of people.

Medical:

The Modern food habits and diseases of people can undergo most of the people for the medical expenses in hospital. People facing from different new diseases are seen in hospitals now days.

Miscellaneous:

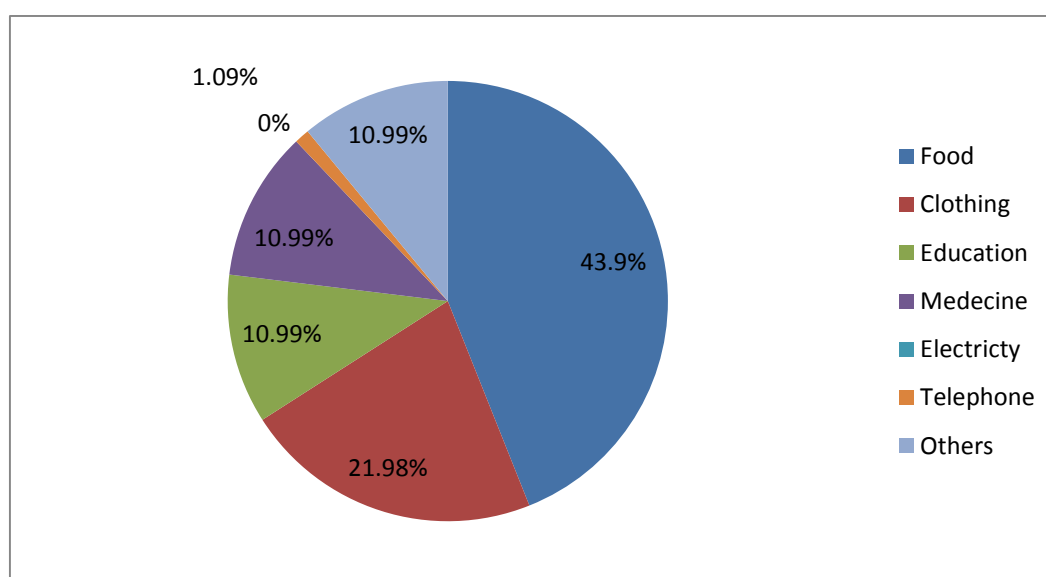
Under these there are many unspecified and unforeseen expenses which comes at any point of time it varies from person to person from families to families. The following table is the monthly expenditure of weaver in their ordinary life.

PATTERN OF EXPENDITURE

Items	Amount in Rs.	Percentage
Food	2000	43.96
Clothing	1000	21.98
Education	500	10.99
Medicines	500	10.99
Electricity	0	0
Telephone	50	1.09
Others	500	10.99
Total	4550	100

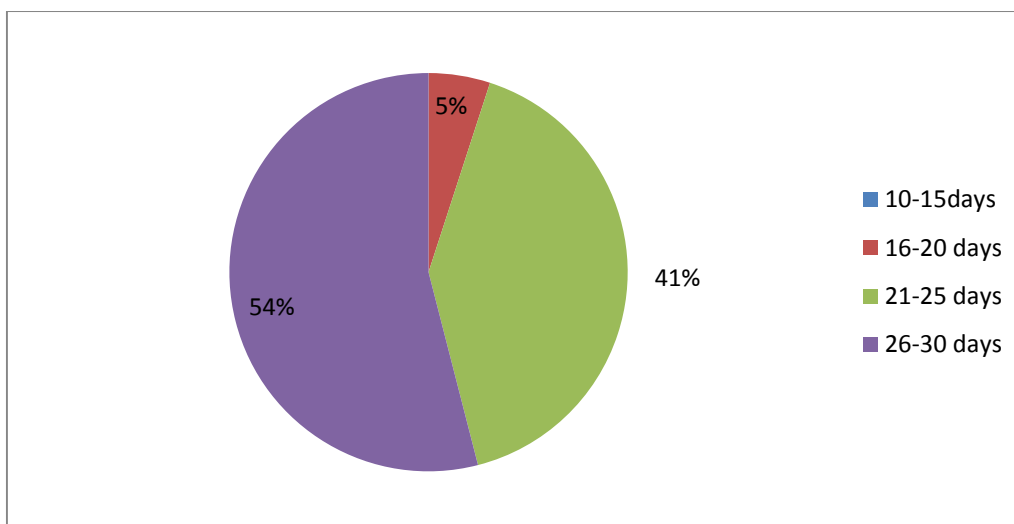
Source: Primary survey

The above table shows that weavers spending the amount money 43.96% on food, 21.98% on clothing, 10.99% on education, medicines and other miscellaneous activities, and 1.09% on telephone. In the entire village there is no supply of electricity 0% electricity in the village.



5.5 Number of working days for month:

The figure shown below the study of number of working days in a month revealed that 54% of respondents are working for 26-30 days, 41% of respondents are working for 21-25days, 5% of respondents work for 16-20 days and none of the respondents work less than around 10-15 days.

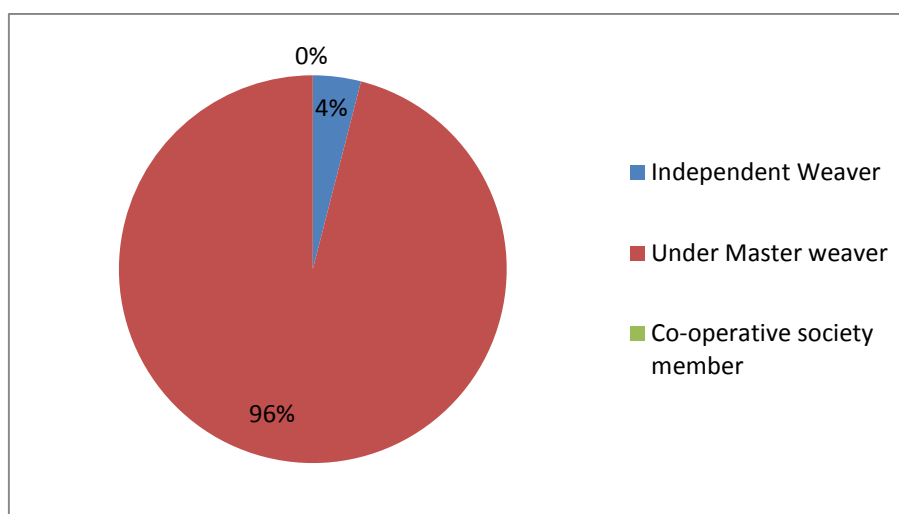


5.6 Working Status:

Sl.No	Category	Number of respondent	Percentage
1	Independent Weaver	4	4
2	Working under Master weaver	98	96
3	Co-operative Society	0	0
	Total	100	100

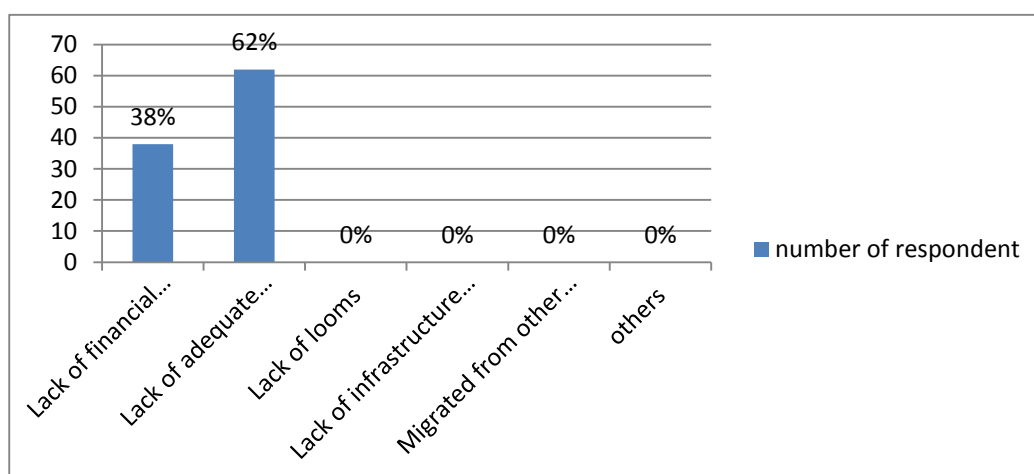
Source: Primary Survey

The above table shown shows the working status wise classification of respondents 4% of weavers work under the Independent weavers, 98% of weavers work under the control of master weavers and none the weavers in the study area were working under the co-operative society as a member.



5.7 Reasons for working under Master Weavers:

While study it was found that majority of respondents were working under the control of master weavers around 96% of respondents seen working under master weavers they provide the raw materials the yarn and dyes the reason behind working under the control of master weavers as per the respondents are 38% of respondents said about the problems in lack of financial sources, 62% of respondents said about the problems in lack of marketing they are unable to go selling their products to the markets.



Conclusion

1. Income determines the standard of living and financial status. In the study area of Bargarh district, all the weavers' primary source of livelihood is weaving. They entered into this profession as their Heredity occupation. They are continuing the traditional culture.
2. Loom is the basic equipment for carrying out the weaving process. The economic status of the weavers can also be measured by the type of loom possessed and also the number of looms as the entire village are using. In the study area the independent weavers and weavers working under master weavers are using Manga.
3. Most of the weavers are engaged in the production of sari (72percent), Dhoti (10percent), Lungies (6percent), Dress Material (12percent). More number of respondents are engaged in the production of saris.
4. With respect to the number of working days per month, the majority (54 percent) of weavers are working for 26-30 days assisted by their family members.

5. Indebtedness is one of the major problem and serious issue in Indian economy as well as in the handloom industry. Causes of indebtedness are low income, poverty, lack of education, expenditure in social customs. Thus the weavers are borrowing funds; majority from the master weavers(42 percent), Friends and Relatives (12 percent), Institution(co-operative society) (20 percent), and Banks (26percent) the main purpose behind taking the loans are marriages, repayment of old loans, acquiring of assets etc.

6. To find out the economic status, it is important to know the monthly family income of the weavers. If one follows, then can find that the expenditure pattern of total average income of each household spending nearly about 43.96 percent on food, 21.98 percent on clothing, 10.99 percent on education, medicine and other miscellaneous expenditure respectively and 1.09 percent on telephone purpose. The study also reveals the weavers are half the income is spend on food followed by clothing.

7. The assets owned, such as: land, type of house, number of looms, equipment etc. by the family also affect their economic status. The data revealed that most of the weavers are not acquiring any type of irrigated or unirrigated land as there secondary source of income.

8. Majority of people are working under the control of master weavers. 96 percent of weavers are working under the control of master weavers and rest 4 percent working as an independent weavers. The master weaver provides them the raw materials and pay them.

Chapter – VI

CONCLUSION AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Summary

The study explained the importance of Handloom weaving community. People are following the traditional occupation and it is highly concentrated. The strength of Handloom lies in innovative designs. The weavers are classified into various categories – Independent weavers, weavers working under master weavers, weavers working for co-operative societies. Thus the Handloom Industry is household based work carried by the entire family spread across thousands of villages and towns in the country. The basic objective of Handloom is to bring about socio-economic development of weavers by accessing wider markets, working capital etc. Thus Handloom Industry is required to strengthen adequately for meeting the emerging challenges of the socio-economic life of the traditional weaver. The sector needs well thought strategies for the emphasis of development of markets and export markets in both at national and international level. Field study done by researcher on factors affecting the handloom industry like social and economic conditions of the weavers there is no up gradation of technology, markets etc. Thus it is necessary to realize the specific issue for wider economic growth and prospectus of handloom sector.

6.2 Conclusion

From the present study it is concluded that Handloom weavers in Bargarh district are traditionally weaving as their primary occupation are in a pitiable condition, owing to poor socio-economic condition. However various unfavourable factors lead to decline on the aspect of socio-economic conditions. Majority of them are wage weavers working for more than 8 hours day accompanied by the entire family. Majority weavers working under the control of master weavers. The findings of the study have been considerably related to the techniques to improve the socio-economic conditions of handloom weaver households. Handloom industry gives employment to lakhs of people it is thus productive as employment generator in the rural and urban areas it focuses on development. Handloom weaving is a noteworthy industry that utilizes lakhs of individuals in the nation. It is important to expand on such qualities while articulating the prospects of the business. A growing inclination, which has ended up progressively proclaimed today, is to see the prospects for the handloom

business in corner (both national and universal) markets. So as to do this, a real move in the current points of view on the business will be important. Handlooms must be drawn nearer as a profitable industry and as a significant generator of business. While my field visits I found that weavers, are using their traditional weaving machines without any up gradation of weaving machines, nor great working conditions, not to mention access to capital or any sort of standardized savings, no proper shed weaving. Thus the study finds out the lacuna in the handloom industry it tries to find out the problems and highlight them in different aspects and tries to highlight the impact of handloom sector. Few suggestions for fulfilling the basic need of people for growth and improving living standards of the weaver and his family. Having studied on the socio-economic conditions of weavers, an attempt has been made to offer few suggestions for improving the plight of handloom weavers. Awareness for education among the weavers society, government shall take necessary measures for the weavers by giving them a common working shed, there is a need of creating awareness, and providing capacity building series to help weavers to meet safety standards, government should provide technical training to women. The following are the findings of the study for improving the socio-economic condition Handloom weaver in Bargarh District however various unfavourable factors led to its decline.

- They have no proper working shed/area.
- They face severe problems especially during the rainy season.
- No Electricity in the entire village.
- They are unable to work during night because of electricity.
- Machines are not updated, using the traditional Machines.
- No sanitation toilet facility in the entire village.
- No old age pension scheme for the senior citizenship.
- Most of the respondent studied up to 5-10th standard.
- Maximum number of respondents resides in nuclear family.
- Family's monthly Income is below Rs. 4500.
- Majority of weavers work under the control of master weaver.

In order to make the sector profitable the strength and weakness must be identified and estimated though handloom weaving has much strength still it's facing through severe crisis poor social and economic conditions

6.3 Policy Implications

The study provides the details of handloom weaving also in order to access the strength and problems in this sector. There is need of growth in employment realize the specific issues for wider expansion of markets for the improvement of the performance of the respondents. Schemes interventions like improvement of designs, technological improvement, income level of weavers must be increased various policies must be implemented for changing and coping up with the changing situation. For the overall development of the Handloom sector the problems facing by the weavers are due to the technological constraint, low productivity, variation of skill level of weavers, as traditional technology causes low productivity at various stages of weaving as its time consuming, poor market linkage as they only depend on the master weavers they have no other accesses to local, national or international markets etc.

Thus the district must develop a user friendly and skill development training system by the skilled master weavers. Introduction of low cost machines will make the weaving process more efficient, promotion of market linkage, linkage with the banks and other financial institution for credit will motivate them for working and also linkage with designers can provide creative designs for development of weavers. Participation in trade fairs will lead to promotion of their products and also market entrepreneurship etc.

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Appendix

SCHEDULE on

SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROFILE OF HANDLOOM WEAVING COMMUNITY: A CASE STUDY OF BARGARH DISTRICT, ODISHA

Researcher:
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This schedule is only meant for the fulfilment of the award for Master Thesis under Master in Development Studies program. The data and information will be collected from primary sources and will be kept confidential. It will be used only for the academic research work not for any other purpose.

Name of the Respondent-

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Name of the head of the family/ :
Household
2. Place of Domicile : Block _____
G.P _____
Village _____
3. Sex : Male/Female
4. Age (in years) :
5. Marital Status : Married / Unmarried
6. Social Class : SC / ST /OBC/GEN/ Minority
7. Religion : Hindu/Muslim/Christian/Others
8. Since, how long you have been living here: _____ (years)
9. Native Place :
10. If migrated, place & district from which :
migrated and when
11. Since how long have you been working in: _____ (years) this profession
12. Category of Holder : APL/BPL

II. SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF WEAVERS

1. No. of Children (below 14 years of age) : Boys [] Girls []
2. No. of Children going to School : Boys [] Girls []
3. No. Children studying in College/University : Boys [] Girls []
4. Occupational preference of children of Handloom weavers household : a) Weaving b) Business
c) Govt. Service d) others__
5. Type of Family : Joint/Nuclear

S.N.	Name (Start with head of House Hold)	Relation with HH	Sex	Age	Marital Status	Education Qualification	occupation	Earning/ Income Per Month.
1								
2								
3								
4								
5								
6								
	Total							

6. No. of members in the family and their details :
7. No. of earning members in the family :
8. No. of dependents : One /Two/Three/Four
9. Nature of house accommodation : Thatched/ Tiled/ Pucca / RCC
10. Possession of house : Owned / Rented
11. In case of owned house : i. Constructed by own Funds []
ii. Build under the scheme of []
iii. Any other specify_____ []

12. No. of rooms in the house :
13. No. of looms in the house :
14. No. of working weavers against the available Looms :
15. Whether there is any toilet facility for your house. : Yes / No
16. If yes, what is the type of toilet : (i) Group latrines with irregular water supply
(ii) Group latrines with regular water supply
(iii) Group latrines with irregular water supply & sweeper
17. Food security : (i) Only one meal a day
(ii) Two meals a day
(iii) Three meals a day
(iv) Short requirement for family
18. Anyone of your family members has been suffering from chronic diseases : Yes / No
19. If yes, specify the nature of disease :
20. How much amount is spent per month for health checkup/ medicines : Rs.
21. Have you joined in health insurance scheme : Yes / No
22. If yes, premium being paid per annum : Rs
23. Have you joined Life Insurance Policy : Yes / No
24. If yes, premium paid per annum : Rs.
25. Ownership of Assets.

Particulars	(Yes,1; No,2)	Number
TV		
Refrigerator		
Cooler		
Telephone		
Cooker		
Radio		

Fans		
Cycle		
Motor Cycle		
Others		

28. Land holdings : i) Nil Holdings
 ii) Up to 0.5 ha. Unirrigated / irrigated
 iii) 1 . 2 ha. Unirrigated / irrigated
 iv) 2 . 5 ha. Unirrigated / irrigated
 v) More than 5 ha. Unirrigated /irrigated

III. ECONOMIC CONDITIONS OF WEAVERS

1. What is occupational distribution of family members?

2. Is weaving primary or secondary occupation : a) Primary []
 b) Secondary []

3. Why did you enter into weaving profession? : a) Hereditary Occupation
 b) Less capital investment
 c) The only work known
 d) Others (specify) _____

4. No. of looms owned :

5. What type of looms are you using? :a) Throw-shuttle pit looms
 b) Fly-shuttle pit looms
 c) Frame looms
 d) Semi-Automatic looms
 e) Loin looms

6. If pit looms are used, specify the reasons:
 for using the pit looms a) Lack of Finance
 b) Lack of Awareness
 c) Lack of sufficient training
 d)Others

7. Economics of type of looms:

Sl.No	Type of loom used	Cost of loom Rs.	No. Of units produced per month	Time taking per unit	Income generated per loom per month Rs.

8. What type of cloth you weave and why : a) Saris
b) Dhotis
c) Lungies
d) Dress Materials
e) Others specify_____
9. No. of working days for month :
- 10.No. of family members that assist the process :
11. Is the income sufficient to maintain your family properly : Yes / No
12. If not, do you borrow any amount : Yes / No
13. If Yes, How much amount you borrowed : Rs.
14. How debt is raised through : i) Master Weavers
ii) Money Lenders
iii) Friends / Relatives
iv) Institutions (Co-operative Society)
v) Banks, etc.
15. What is the total debt outstanding at present : Rs.
16. Rate of interest charged : ____%
17. Pattern of monthly family expenditure :

Food	Clothing	Education	Rent	Medicines	Electricity	Telephone	Others	Total Surplus

18. Are you aware of any Govt. schemes : Yes / No
on this regard

19. What is the help you have received from Govt./ :

Society/Master Weaver, please provide details

20. Details of assets held by the weaver family :

Asset	Type	Value (Rs.)	Self-Acquired /inherited
Land			
House			
Looms			
Equipment			
Others			

21. Are you : a) An Independent Weaver
b) Working under the control of Master Weaver
c) Working for Co-operative society as member

22.As an **independent weaver**, how do you procure the raw materials:

Type of Raw material Source	Quantity used (p.m)	Value (Rs.)
Yarn		
Dyes & Chemicals		
Others		

23. If working **under the control of Master Weaver**:

reasons for working for Master Weaver

- a) Lack of Financial Sources
- b) Lack of adequate marketing
- c) Lack of Looms

- d) Lack of Infrastructural Facilities
- e) Migrated from other place
- f) Others specify_____

24. What problems are you facing as weaver :
working under the control of Master Weaver

25. If member of **Co-operative Society**

- (a) What is the name of the society? :
- (b) When was it established? :
- (c) How many members are there? :
- (d) What is its turnover? :

26. Do the traders show any discrimination in the services rendered to men and women weavers? : a) Varieties
b) Loans/Advances
c) Appreciation
d) Sharing knowledge
e) Marketing opportunities

27. What is the wage difference for the same skill work between men and women?

28. Are you a member of any Self-Help Group? : Yes
Name_____

: No
Reasons_____

29. Did participation in the SHGs : Yes / No
Improve the access to credit?

30. What suggestions do you offer for better participations of women weavers?

31. What do you think the reasons for present handloom industry crisis?

32. What type of support do you require from the Government for improving the position of handloom industry & weavers?

33. Suggest any steps for bringing women into the arena?
